



Day Trippin' Treasures

By Stephen Childress

Everyone knows about Charleston, Myrtle Beach and other famous South Carolina destinations. But what about those spots that only the locals know? Here's a list of some of South Carolina's undiscovered gems that are in close proximity to other popular destinations.



Photo courtesy of sconeecountry.com.



"I think it's beautiful. My son thinks it's the coolest place he's ever seen."
— Laveda
Lifetime South Carolina resident

STUMPHOUSE TUNNEL

While Laveda Miles has many favorite South Carolina destinations on her list, Stumphouse Tunnel is one of the most unique.

"I've been coming to Stumphouse with my family for years. My favorite random fact—Confederate soldiers hid horses inside the tunnel during the Civil War," says Laveda.

Excavation for the Stumphouse Tunnel near Walhalla, SC, began back in the late 1830s in an effort to create a railway system that would run from Charleston, SC, to Cincinnati, OH. However, construction of the tunnel was halted during the Civil War and was never completed.



"Boneyard Beach is one of the most beautiful and most serene spots in all of South Carolina."
— Jeff
South Carolina resident

BONEYARD BEACH

Jeff Gandy picks Boneyard Beach as his favorite hidden treasure. Located just north of Charleston on the uninhabited Bull Island, the Boneyard is a beach filled with twisted tree trunks and sun-bleached driftwood. Bring your camera to capture the stark imagery of this unique landscape.

"There's really no other place like it that I know of on the entire Atlantic Coast, and quite possibly, the world," says Jeff.

The leisurely 30-minute ferry ride from Awendaw, SC, to Bull Island provides some incredible photo opportunities as well. The rich marsh area is home to dolphins, egrets, pelicans, herons and more beautiful wildlife.



"It's inexpensive, rarely crowded and a perfect place to spend the day if you have young children."
— Jennifer
11-year South Carolina resident

CHARLES TOWNE LANDING ANIMAL FOREST

As an 11-year South Carolina resident, Jennifer McBride knows a thing or two about lesser-known South Carolina destinations. Her favorite spot is the Charles Towne Landing Animal Forest, just minutes from downtown Charleston, SC. She and her daughter have spent many an afternoon enjoying the Animal Forest's wildlife.

"We love the natural habitat zoo. It's different from an ordinary zoo because you see the animals in their real environments," says Jennifer.

Featuring everything from herons and turkeys to bears, bison, bobcats and pumas, the Charles Towne Landing Animal Forest is home to numerous indigenous South Carolina species. In addition to the Animal Forest, Charles Towne Landing is a history lover's paradise.

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